EARLY SUMMER CARE - Barling's Nursery

Jimmie Monroe asked me to pop off on some help for Hibiscus during May and June so - - - - -

It's been hot, dry, windy days and cool nights for the past six weeks but if you have been watering often and deep the plants should not have suffered too greatly except for lack of bloom. We all hope for and expect too much from our Hibiscus in Spring but actually most plants grow or bloom in cycles and Spring is when they are getting back on their feet.

Water is responsible for about 80% of your plants health while fertilizer only 20%, so if its dry make sure that water gets deep in the soil to make the roots push down instead of growing near the surface. The soil should never completely dry out as plant relapse is most harmful. Naturally a substantial amount of peat or other organic material should be introduced into the soil at planting to hold water. If peat is used it is normally necessary to add some dolomite to conteract the drop of pH by the peat. A pH of 5½ to 6½ is normal.

If your plant looks droopy and yellow don't start to be a doctor with all sorts of cures which at the best is guesswork. First have a soil sample analyzed at your county agent agricultural center. In the interim leach the soil heavily on a sunny day. Repeat the leach in several days and wait. Either the plant will improve by washing out excess fertilizer or collected soluble salts or the soil analysis will tell you what the plant needs.

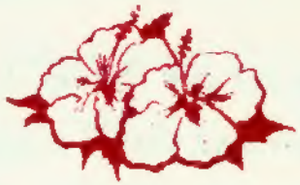
Most people over fertilize and waste about 50% of the fertilizer by not lightly cultivating the soil about the plant first. About the greatest deficiency in Florida soils are the minor elements which are an additive and not a fertilizer. At least four times a year the minor elements should be added to the soil for really healthy plants. For bloom, something like Wilson's Bloom Master is most healthful. Don't put

(Cont'd page 4)

SUNRISE CHAPTER
of the
AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Presents

THE PREMIER HIBISCUS SHOW
of the
PALM BEACHES



Sunday, May 28, 1967
at the
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
in
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA

NEXT TO THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

ONE BLOCK EAST OF U.S. 1. TAKE STATE RD. 802
EAST FROM U.S. 441 OR S. S. PARKWAY INTERCHANGE
NO. 8 TO LAKE WORTH (6 MILES) EAST